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**Subject:** Announcing the 2014 SEC Annual Meeting! "For Such a Time is This"

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**From:** Southeast Conference UCC (clwaldron@secucc.org)

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**To:** michaelststroud@bellsouth.net;

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Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. Don't forget to add clwaldron@secucc.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

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## FEATURE FOCUS

### Announcing the 2014 Conference Annual Meeting: "For Such a Time as This"

**June 20-21, 2014**

**At Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia**

Please make sure to mark your calendars for the Southeast Conference Annual Meeting to be held at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia June 20-21. It will be an exciting time to gather in fellowship, to hear about the state of the Conference, elect new leadership, and celebrate the installation of Rev. June Boutwell as the Designated Conference Minister.

Decatur United Church of Christ is the hosting congregation this year and Rev. Glenna Shepherd is on the planning team. The theme is "For Such a Time as This" taken from the story of Esther. The meeting will be focused on our shared history, traditions, dreams, visions, and sharing our own stories with one another. Valerie Tutson, internationally known storyteller, will help us engage our stories as individuals, as churches, and as a conference.

One of the other ways to share our story will be a special exhibit where each and every church in the Southeast Conference is invited to share a poster size display of the Good News of their ministry. This may be an ongoing mission

project, a special event or outreach, an anniversary, speakers or special programs, or just a list of all the ways you do mission, ministry and outreach. Nothing fancy-just a shout out to share the way you live out the Gospel in your ministry. No matter who you are or where you are on this ministry journey, you have good news to share for such a time as this!

One of the highlights of this meeting will be the installation of Rev. June Boutwell as the Designated Conference Minister at the closing worship on Saturday to be held in the beautiful chapel at Piedmont College. Rev. Felix Villanueva, Conference Minister for Southern California Nevada Conference will be preaching and Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries, in the national setting of the United Church of Christ will be helping to lead our time of worship. These two dynamic leaders will also make themselves available as resource during the meeting.

Registration materials will be sent to churches by April 21. The voting membership of the Southeast Conference consists of the authorized ministers holding standing in an association of the Southeast Conference and lay delegates selected by and representing the local churches within the boundaries of the Conference. Each church is entitled to three voting delegates and churches with over 100 members are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof. Visitors are welcome as well to come and share in the gathering, fellowships, and resources present at the meeting.



### **Shared, History, Story, Traditions, Dreams, Vision** **A Message from Rev. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister**

Some of you have already figured out that story and imagery are important aspects of my ministry. That being the case, I am enjoying doing some creative thinking about the theme of the Southeast Conference Annual meeting, "For Such a Time as This." It has been difficult to come up with a visual representation of that phrase. I have sketched out a jigsaw pattern with the words *shared, history, story, traditions, dreams, vision*. The other image I had was of a tree or vine with those words incorporated into the structure of the plant. Luckily for you all, I have now turned that task to people who are professionally trained to develop ideas and images.

This is an exciting time for the Southeast Conference as well as for me personally. I am looking forward to Annual Meeting and getting to know a whole lot more folk in the Conference. The staff at Piedmont College have been so welcoming and generous and willing to provide what we need to have a wonderful time together. I am eagerly looking forward to the pre-meeting Authorized Ministers' Retreat and our conversation together. And I wait with joyful anticipation for the installation service on Saturday with dear friends and colleagues in ministry as a part of that celebration of our mutual ministry.

celebration of our mutual ministry.

Meanwhile I have enjoyed my travels around the conference. I appreciated the faithful and deep conversation of the Ala-Tenn (MS) Association Re-Imagining Task Force as they wrestled with the role of the Association and the changes of recent years. And I got to learn a new way of dining - meat and three.

[Click here to read the rest of Rev. June's message on the Southeast Conference Website](#)

## CONFERENCE NEWS



### Update from Beloved Community

The following is a message from Angie Wright from Beloved Community Church in Birmingham:

*David Camon, Beloved Community UCC's Keyboard player since the church began in 2000, lost everything in a house fire last night. Thankfully, he and his family escaped the fire, crawling out under the smoke and flames.*

*The Camon family needs help! They did not have insurance for their belongings. Their landlord is working with them to find another place to stay but that may take some time. The Red Cross has provided a room for a couple of days but I don't know what they have after that. David and Linda both have significant health problems that are exacerbated by stress; the financial strain on top of the trauma of a house fire can at least be lessened by our gifts.*

*Will you make a contribution to Beloved Community so that we can assist them with pulling together the basic necessities? You can donate online ([www.belovedcommunitychurch.org](http://www.belovedcommunitychurch.org)) and message us that it is for the Camon family; or send a check made out to Beloved Community Church to 131 41st Street*

## Generosity Corner

### FAQ With Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator and Follow-up Coordinator for the Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives Capital Campaign

Have questions about the Transforming Churches-Transforming Lives Capital Campaign? Here's some answers from Debbie Spearman, Generosity Coordinator and Followup Coordinator for the campaign:

#### **Q: So, Debbie, how is the Campaign going?**

Currently, pledges to the Campaign from churches and individuals total \$658,700. We are very pleased to have this financial support from the Conference churches and from individual supporters of the Campaign.

#### **Q. How many churches have pledged thus far?**

25 churches. Additionally, 60 individuals and friends of the Conference have also pledged.

#### **Q. What is the biggest challenge now for the**

#### **Conference Campaign?**

Really, we have two challenges ahead. One is to ensure that all the monies that have been pledged over the 5 to 7 year span, are actually collected. So far, we are running 25% behind in dollars received vs pledged. And the second is to ensure that every church in the Conference is well informed about how the monies will be dispersed for Conference and Church projects.

#### **Q. How will the campaign dollars be used?**

The Priorities Committee, (comprised of individuals representing various churches of the Conference), will begin reviewing applications in 2014. Any Southeast Conference Church or Conference group may apply. 2014 will be the beginning of this grant process and monies available for granting should span over the next 6 to 7 years. After the Priorities Committee has reviewed and approved, the application will be sent to the Conference Board of Directors for final approval.



South, Birmingham, AL, 35222.

*You are always so generous in times of crisis. We've had a lot of it lately! I thank you in advance for any help you can offer this wonderful man who has given so much to our Beloved Community, and his family in this time of great need.*

*Blessings,  
Angie*

This comes after the storm this past February that caused Beloved Community to move out of their building while they made repairs. Beloved Community Church would like to thank everyone for their prayers. Rev. Wright reports that repairs are underway-the roof has been replaced and other work is proceeding. They hope to be back in the building in about a month. Rev. Wright expressed her gratitude for the United Church of Christ Insurance Board and their rapid response and support as the claim was resolved. With the initial damage and subsequent rains that further damaged the structure before the claim evaluators could finish, it was a complicated process. Rev. Wright asks for continued prayers for Beloved Community Church as they work on building back to wholeness in their community.



**Members in Discernment from the SEC Gather in Cleveland to Experience the National Church**

"Guide my feet, while I run this race. Guide my feet, while I run this race," sang 47 Members in Discernment gathered in worship for the Eastern Regional Member in Discernment Retreat at the headquarters of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH. The words to this classic Christian spiritual beautifully captured the spirit of the conference, which spanned three days this past March 26 - 28 and drew Members in Discernment from conferences located down the entire East Coast of the United States, including the Southeast Conference. Chief among the goals for the conference was to give Members in Discernment the UCC's name for those

### **Q. What kinds of projects do you anticipate this funding to be used for?**

There could be all kinds of projects! It could be used for improving the technology used at the Conference or at the local church. It could be used for seminary interns who wish to help revitalize an older, established church. It could help provide needed training for lay and clergy. Or it could be used to assist new church development. You see, there is a wide array of initiatives that can be funded to make our ministry in the Southeast Conference even stronger.

### **Q. How can we obtain more information?**

Please call or email Debbie Spearman at 770-490-3838 or  
[dspearman@secucc.org](mailto:dspearman@secucc.org)

## **A Letter from the Finance Committee Chair**

### **To all the churches of the Southeast Conference**

On behalf of the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors I want to thank you for your generous OCWM support for 2013. Because most of you honored your commitments to OCWM the Conference was able to end up the year in much better financial shape than we had budgeted.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors is committed to achieving a balanced budget for the Conference within the next two years. In order to make that happen we need your financial support. We are almost there as our initial Conference budget for 2014 is forecast to show a deficit of less than \$25,000. If you keep up your support, and then some, we might be able to achieve our goal in this calendar year.

So, again, thank you for your support as it allows the Conference and its staff to bring you the fine programs and support you have asked for. Blessings on you and your congregation for the coming year.

Yours in Christ,

David P. Speno, Finance Committee Chair

STILLSPEAKING  
YOUTH

Members in Discernment, the SECUC name for those who are discerning a call to ministry in the United Church of Christ, an opportunity to connect to one another, to the United Church of Christ's national setting, and to God as they continue the process that will lead many of them into the pulpits of UCC churches across the country.

Attending from the Southeast Conference were Anna Flowers, James Bowman Harris, Michelle Holtman, Amber Kirkendoll and Rev. Kirk Lyman-Barner, who serves on the SECUCC's Members in Discernment Committee, the body which oversees the MID process for all candidates within the Southeast Conference.

[Click here to read the rest of the article on the SECUCC website.](#)

## AROUND the CONFERENCE

### **Community Congregational United Church of Christ, Montgomery AL Women's Ministry held its**

**Annual Women's History Month Worship**, Sunday, March 16, 2014. Chaplain Alicia Smallwood Brown, spiritual leader at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women delivered God's Word and share relevant information about Tutwiler, Alabama's only institution for female inmates. As part of Community's continuing outreach, personal items were donated to Tutwiler's HYGIENE PROJECT.

### **AUTHORIZED MINISTERS' RETREAT PRE-ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 19, 2014 PIEDMONT COLLEGE**

All authorized ministers are invited to join with the Conference on Thursday, June 19, 2014 for a time of sharing stories and dreaming dreams. This will be a conversation of peers centering around the theme for the Annual Meeting, "For Such a Time as This" from the story of Esther. It will also help inform the work of the Designated Conference Minister. The call for that position reads in part:

[She will be a] pastor and teacher for a period of three years... During this time we ask that you lead us in a process of visioning, planning, and preparing a road map for our future, as described in the section "Where We Are Headed" from our Conference profile... At the end of the designated term, the Conference Board of Directors may elect to extend this call for up to two additional years in order to complete the work of building a new structure or preparing the way for new

## **Regional Youth Event this Summer**

Join with other UCC youth around the south for the Regional Youth event! June 12-15, 2014 ~ hosted at Eckerd College, in St Petersburg, FL. This event is open to all 6th - 12th grade youth from the Florida, Southern, Southeast and South Central Conferences of the UCC. Our theme is "Touched by God." The early bird registration deadline is in just a couple of days!

[Click here to link via Facebook](#)

[Click here for a link to information on the Florida Conference website](#)

[Click here to register!](#)

Cost: Early bird registration for \$240 ending 4/10/2014. Registrations received after that date will be \$265 with a 5/15/2014 deadline.



### **National Environmental Summit for High School Youth**

The National Environmental Summit for High School Students- July 8-12, 2014- is open to all students ages 14-17 by the time of the Summit. Students come to the summit from across the country with many different interests but with one common passion, the environment. Students work with college professors according to the discipline of their interest, taking advantage of the diverse offerings of this small liberal arts campus such as writing, theater, history, botany, and zoology. The summit aims to match student talent, in a discipline of their interest, with avenues to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Students interested in writing may blog or write poetry about environmental issues or environmental surroundings, while students interested in botany may learn about the spread of invasive species and even how to cook them!

ministerial leadership.

The conversation will focus on three subtexts of the story: "Against All Odds," "From Mourning to Holiday," and "For Such a Time as This." This will be a time to celebrate ministry as well as have an honest conversation about challenges and conflicts. It will also be a time to dream dreams and see visions of the future of the Southeast Conference as we begin to draw that roadmap for the future on our journey together. Forms to sign up for this pre-event will be in the registration packet for Annual Meeting.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee asks that members of the Southeast Conference prayerfully consider how they might serve the wider church. Election will be held at Annual Meeting during the business session on June 21, 2014. The following positions will be open:

### Vice Moderator

**Board of Directors**, two Members at Large  
**Personnel Committee**, Chair and two members  
**Stewardship and Finance**, two members

**Commission on Ministry**, chair of the Commission as a whole and two members

**Review and Consultation Committee**, chair  
**Licensing and Commissioning Committee**, chair

Members are always welcome to serve on any COM Committee listed below:

**Review and Consultation**  
**Member in Discernment**  
**Scholarship**  
**Psychological**  
**Licensing and Commissioning**  
**Privilege of Call/Dual Standing**

**General Synod**, three delegates who must be able to attend the 2015 General Synod in Cleveland and the 2017 General Synod in Baltimore.

If you have questions or are interested in any of these positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee through email by clicking their name or call the Conference office.

[Dorothy Gager](#)  
[Marcia Bentley](#)  
[Susannah Davis](#)  
[June Boutwell](#)



Students get the chance to work in real labs, recording studios, production stages, and all with college professors. The cost of the 4 day, residential summit is \$490. Per the organizer, financial aid available.

[You can download the flyer by clicking here.](#)

Please visit website to find out more information:

[CenterfortheEnvironment.org](http://CenterfortheEnvironment.org).



## Join Global Ministries for a Journey!

[This free online youth curriculum](#) is one of self-discovery to broaden their view of themselves, the church, the community, and their place in the world. <http://globalministries.org/ready>

### R.E.A.D.Y!

(Revolutionary Engaged and Driven Youth):

**Session 1** Challenging stereotypes and prejudices

**Session 2** Recognizing God in all religious traditions

**Session 3** Discovering differences and similarities to people in different cultures

**Session 4** Realizing God's mission requires a constantly evolving world view

In each session there are bible quotes (linked to the appropriate scripture passage), reflection questions, quotes for reflection, embedded videos, and exercises.

Each session could be completed in one hour with a bible passage/discussion and video/reflection question.

The materials are plentiful and flexible enough to be used in one or several sessions. The resource can also be used for adult study.

The Global Ministries Mission Education team welcomes your feedback and has provided a link at the end of Session 4.

Email: [ready@ucc.org](mailto:ready@ucc.org) for more information.



## QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY FOR WOMEN

June 25-29, 2014 Atlanta

Every four years the Office of Disciples Women (ODW) and International Disciples Women's Ministries (IDWM) sponsor an assembly planned by and for women. In 2014, women from around the world will converge on Atlanta, Georgia for the 14th Quadrennial Assembly at the Marriott Marquis Hotel and Convention Center.

The Assembly will feature powerful speakers, original music and outstanding discovery groups. More than 2,000 women are expected to attend this awesome gathering. The hotel is large enough to hold all assembly attendees under one roof and Disciples Women will be the largest group during that week.

More than 80 discovery opportunities will be found on the official event website, [www.quadrennial.org](http://www.quadrennial.org). Registration online is available now. [You can download a flyer for the event here.](#)

Peace,

[Tracy Carnes](#) (UCC) and [Jon Barnes](#) (DOC)



## Caring Connections Conference

May 16, 2014 Lipscomb University, Nashville Tenn.

Hear distinguished professionals speaking on such topics as mental health, ministry, pastoral care, spiritual formation and more.

You'll leave this conference better equipped to care for those you serve with new ideas, stronger skills and resources that are available to you and your company, practice or ministry.

AGAPE's Counselor Training Institute and Lipscomb's Department of Psychology and Counseling are partnering together to present this unique, one-day conference.

To register or for more information go to [www.caringconnectionsconference.org](http://www.caringconnectionsconference.org) or email [info@caringconnectionsconference.org](mailto:info@caringconnectionsconference.org).



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